

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES



FALL 2015  
NEWSLETTER



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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

### Biennial Convention in Istanbul a Great Success

From Saïd Amir Arjomand, ASPS President

September 15, 2015

With the completion of our wonderful gathering on the Bosphorus, it is my duty and pleasure to thank those responsible for making it a great success: our hosts, Dr. Sara Nur Yıldız of Orient-Institut Istanbul and Professor Sitare Turan Bakır of Mimar Sinan Güzel Sanatlar Üniversitesi, our own Vice-President Jo-Ann Gross, Pooriya Alimoradi, Ghazzal Dabiri and Golfam Ghafourifar, who receive you on behalf of ASPS, Ms Özlem Ataman of MSGSU, Ms Rebecca Mattes of O-I I, and the student aides from the Boğaziçi University. I am also most grateful to Dr. İlker Evrim Binbaş and Mr Derya Türkan for the unforgettable Persianate Music in Ottoman Istanbul. Last but not least, I wish to thank Kathy van Vliet and Brill, and Mariam Borbor and the Research Institute and Library for Iranian Studies for their support for the reception and the banquet respectively.

Building on the great expansion of membership under ASPS Past-President Parvaneh Pourshariati, and our recovery and financial consolidation under the remarkable management of ASPS Acting Treasurer Pooriya Alimoradi, we were able to continue our ascent as the undisputed leading global scholarly institution in

Persianate Studies. Our global expansion was confirmed in the meeting of the Regional Councils on September 10 by the announcing of the opening of ASPS offices for Japan at the University of Tokyo with Professor Kazuo Morimoto as its Director, for the Mediterranean region at the Sapienza University of Rome, with Professor Carlo Cereti as its Director, and for Russia at the Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, with Professor Pavel Basharin as its Director.

Last but not least, I am most grateful to you, our dear participants, for presenting generally very strong papers, and especially to those who made several very useful proposals and constructive criticisms to me, to ASPS Past-President Pourshariati, and to other Directors. These include several suggestions for our next convention in Shiraz, changing the Persian designation of the Association, and holding a business meeting at the end of each convention regularly-- all of which will be considered at the next meeting of our Board of Directors in November.

I look forward to seeing you again in Shiraz in March 2017/Esfand 1396 for the Eighth ASPS Biennial Convention.



## NEWS FROM THE JOURNAL EDITOR

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

#### THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Kasheff Manouchehr** for his dedication to the Journal as associate editor of the journal and wish him well in his future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCING NEW ASSOCIATE AND WELCOME

We are delighted to announce that **D. Gershon Lewental** will be the new associate editor beginning January 2016. We would also like to take the time to warmly welcome him to the Journal.

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Volume No. 8.2

2015

Special Issue on the Safavids in Global  
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#### GUEST EDITOR: RUDI MATTHEE

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**Riza Yildirim**, In the Name of Hoseyn's Blood:  
The Memory of Karbala as Ideological Stimulus to  
the Safavid Revolution

**Ferenc Csirkés**, Messianic Oeuvres in Interaction:  
Misattributed Poems by Shah Esmā'il and Nesimi

**Theodore Beers**, The Biography of Vahshi Bafqi  
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**Jose Cutillas**, Did Shah `Abbās I Have a  
Mediterranean Policy?

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Comparative Perspective

#### Review Essay

**Saïd Amir Arjomand**, A Decade of Persianate  
Studies

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### Contributions

ASPS welcomes papers from members and other  
scholars for the Journal of Persianate Studies.  
Please send your submissions to:

Saïd Amir Arjomand, Editor-in-Chief  
[said.Arjomand@stonybrook.edu](mailto:said.Arjomand@stonybrook.edu).

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR BIO



**D. Gershon Lewental** has been the Schusterman visiting assistant professor in the Departments of History and International & Area Studies at the University of Oklahoma since 2012. He earned his bachelor of arts degree (*magna cum laude*) from Cornell University and his doctorate in Middle Eastern history from Brandeis University. His dissertation, on the Battle of al-Qādisiyyah during the Arab-Islamic conquest of Iran and the changing perceptions of the engagement through time, received the Foundation of Iranian Studies Best Dissertation Award and the Brandeis University Glatzer Dissertation Prize. He is a cultural historian of the Middle East, focusing on how societies use religion, memory, and conflict to define and maintain their identities. His fields of specialisation include early Islamic history and historiography, Iranian history, the Baha'i faith, and Israeli society.

He is preparing two book manuscripts, one on the interplay of religion, nationalism, and memory in the modern Middle East and the other on the rôle of narrative in early Islamic historiography. His article, "Saddam's Qadisyyah": Religion and history in the service of state ideology in Ba'ṯhi Iraq, appeared in *Middle Eastern Studies* in 2014 and articles on Iranian identity in Islamic historical narratives and radical Islamists' memory are forthcoming in other journals. He is also the English translator of numerous Hebrew academic works, including Yaron Harel's *Zionism in Damascus* (I B Tauris, 2015). Other topics on which he is currently working include a broad study of the Baha'i community in Israel from 1917 to the present; and an analysis of the elaboration of Tajiki identity. At the University of Oklahoma, he teaches numerous courses, including Religion and society in the Middle East, Early Islamic empires, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Religion and minorities in Israel, Political Islam, Jews and Christians under Islam, Rebirth of Israel (History of Zionism), and Israeli society.

His professional website is [DGLnotes.com](http://DGLnotes.com).

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR INTRODUCTION & BIO

We are pleased to announce that as January 2016, **Mehdi Faraji** will be the new newsletter editor. We warmly welcome him to ASPS.



**Mehdi Faraji** received his PhD in Cultural Sociology from the University of Tehran, and is currently a visiting scholar at the Institute for Global Studies, Stony Brook University. From 2011-12 he was a visiting scholar at the Department of Sociology at Harvard University. His writings on cultural studies, religion, and civilization have appeared in academic journals. His research interests include contemporary history, culture, and civilization in Iran. He has conducted various researches on religion and culture in Iranian everyday life. He is currently working on cultural changes in Iran in 1960s-70s.

## LIFETIME MEMBER BIO



**S. Peter Poullada** was born in Pakistan in 1953. He lived in Afghanistan between 1954-1958 and returned to Central Asia for a year during high school. He graduated from Princeton University in 1975, majored in Near Eastern Studies; studied Arabic and Persian and wrote his B.A. Thesis on State-Tribal relations in Iran. After graduation was a Princeton in Asia Fellow teaching Persian History

at Iranzamin College in Tehran, and then in 1976 taught English in Kabul Afghanistan. He then attended Graduate School at University of California, Berkeley, initially studying Central Asian history but ending up with an M.A. in International Economics and Policy Studies. From 1980 to 1994 worked in International Investment Banking for Bankers Trust Company, first in Turkey and then from 1989 to 1994 in International Capital Markets based in London with monthly trips to the Middle East as well as the Far East, especially to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand and China. From 1995 to 2000 Peter was a co-Founder and Partner of Belgrave Capital Management, the first Hedge Fund in the United Kingdom to specialize in investing in Emerging Markets. Since 2001 Peter has retired to Northern California to follow his main passion: researching, writing about and collecting tribal carpets and textiles from the nomadic tribes of Central Asia and the Middle East, with a particular focus on how these objects can illuminate the unwritten history of these tribal peoples. Over the past 15 years Peter has organized and led six private tours to Central Asia including one in 2011 to Tajikistan accompanied by Fiona Miller, Program Director from Princeton in Asia, with the specific goal of establishing PIA Fellowship opportunities in that country. Peter is a member of the Middle East Studies Association, the Royal Central Asian Society, the International Society for Iranian Studies and the Association for the Study of Persianate Studies. He has published articles on Central Asia in the Journal of the Royal Society for Asian Studies and in Hali Magazine: the leading journal for the study of Islamic carpets and textiles.

## NEW REGIONAL OFFICES

### ITALY -ROME

Rome has had a long standing tradition of Persianate Studies. The ASPS Rome Office, which

was formally approved on September 10 at the meeting of the Regional Councils, will engage in activities with the aim of strengthening that tradition for future generation of scholars. The office will focus on the area bridging the Mediterranean, Middle East, Central Asia worlds. It will create relationships with other organizations to develop partnerships and organize conferences, workshops, and seminars.

The contact address of the regional for Rome is:

Director, Prof. Antonello Biagini  
Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza  
Centro di Ricerca per la Cooperazione con  
L'Eurasia, il Mediterraneo e L'Africa sub sahariana  
(CEMAS)  
Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5, 00185 Roma, Italy

Scientific Supervisors:

Prof. **Saïd Amir Arjomand**, ASPS  
Prof. **Carlo Cereti**, CEMAS

### JAPAN -TOKYO



The meeting of the Regional Councils on September 10 formally approved the opening of the ASPS's regional office for Japan with Professor Kazuo Morimoto as its Director. The office is now located in the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo. The principal objective of opening an office in Japan is to promote active participation of Japanese scholars

in the activities of the association. It is widely recognized that Japan houses a rather large group of colleagues engaged in the study of Persianate societies. The contents of their research, however, have not been known properly outside the country as those colleagues have mostly written in Japanese. It is hoped that the new office in Tokyo will change this situation by inviting Japanese scholars to actively participate in our conventions and to contribute to the Journal of Persianate Studies.

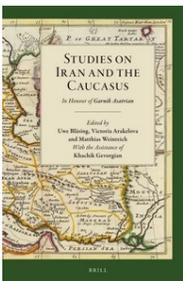
The contact address of the regional office for Tokyo is:

Prof. **Kazuo Morimoto**  
 Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia  
 The University of Tokyo  
 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku,  
 Tokyo 113-0033  
 Japan  
 Phone/Fax: +81 3 5841 1391  
 E-mail: [morikazu@ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:morikazu@ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICES

### ARMENIA -YEREVAN

#### New Publication



*Studies on Iran and The Caucasus: In Honour of Garnik Asatrian*, Brill: Leiden

(Edited by Uwe Bläsing, Victoria Arakelova and Matthias Weinreich).

This unique collection of essays by leading international scholars gives a profound introduction into the great diversity and richness of facets forming the study of one of earth's most exciting areas, the Iranian and Caucasian lands. Each of the 37 contributions

sheds light on a very special topic, the range of which comprises historical, cultural, ethnographical, religious, political and last but not least literary and linguistic issues, beginning from the late antiquity up to current times. Especially during the last decennia these two regions gained greater interest worldwide due to several developments in politics and culture. This fact grants the book, intended as a festschrift for Prof. Garnik Asatrian, a special relevance.

*Yerevan Oriental Series* (Ed. Garnik Asatrian) accepts for publication academic monographs up to 80 000 words (app. 200 pages) in various fields of Oriental Studies.

Monographs are peer-reviewed and should be submitted to the Editor ([caucasoiranica@gmail.com](mailto:caucasoiranica@gmail.com)).

Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies (Yerevan) and ASPS in Armenia cover publication expenses.

Among the publications of the Series are the following:

- Volume 1. Siavash Lornejad, Ali Doostzadeh. *On the Modern Politicization of the Persian Poet Nezami Ganjavi* (2012).
- Volume 2. Garnik Asatrian. *Ethnic Composition of Iran* (2012).
- Volume 3. Matthias Weinreich. *Migration and Language: Pashto Speakers in the High Mountains of Pakistan* (2014).

Forthcoming Publications:

- Sekandar Amanolahi. *The Gypsy Musicians of Iran*.
- Behrooz Bakhtirari. *Kinship Terms in New Iranian Languages*.

## GEORGIA -TBILISI

**International Conference "Great Game" and Georgia: East-West Political, Cultural and Economic Interactions during the first half of the 19th c. Tbilisi, September 30 – October 2, 2015.**



The Conference was organized jointly by the G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies of the Iliia State University, State Museum of Folk and Applied Art of Georgia, and the Pembroke Centre for Persian Studies, University of Cambridge. It was designed as a part of the international project on Literature, Art, Diplomacy and Empire supported by the British Institute of Persian Studies, British Academy and based at the Pembroke Centre for Persian Studies.

Having been for the last six centuries the key point on the political crossroads between the Persian and the Russian Empires, Georgia was also heavily involved in the sphere of interests of the British Empire, especially at the peak of the first wave of the Great Game - Russo-British rivalry known as tournament of shadows, started in the Caucasus. Despite the political and military rivalry, the shared cultural heritage remained in its golden age, expressed in all artistic forms, including art, literature and music. For this reason, the conference had as a particularly attractive feature a specially organized exhibition "East-West Divan: Mushtaidi (Mojtahed) Palace Decorations" from the collections of the Museum of Folk and Applied art. There was also a day trip to the Tsinandali Museum in Kakhetia, the former estate of Princes Chavchavadze, who played an exceptionally important role in the history of Georgian-Russo-Persian diplomatic relations.

The topics the conference were Persian-Western political interactions and Georgia. 2. Georgia as a transit route between Persia and Western Empires.

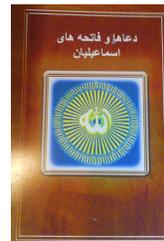
3. Literary and linguistic contacts. 4. Diplomacy of Empires and Georgia. 5. Persian-West cultural interactions, artistic heritage and Georgia.

## TAJIKISTAN KHOROG

In 2014-2015, the Khorog branch of ASPS of Tajikistan completed the following works:



In 2014, with the support of ASPS a collection of articles by faculty of Humanitarian Institute of the Academy of sciences of Tajikistan and Khorog State University were published. The collection is devoted to historical, linguistically, political, journalistic and economical themes.



In 2015, the director of the Khorog ASPS of Tajikistan, researcher at Humanitarian Institute of the Academy of sciences of Tajikistan Umed Mamadsherzodshoev together with the teachers of Khorog state University Sabohat Donayorova and Manzarsho Dilovarshoev published a book under the name "Ismaily prayers and recites" in Dushanbe. The text of this book was made ready on the basis of the collection of religious traditions of Ismaili Khalifas of Badakhshan Shohzodamhammad ibn Seyid Farrukhshah, Jamshed Tayyibov, Seyid Manzar Seyid Mursalov, Shahkalon valde Shohzodamhammad, Davlatbek valade Nazarbek and khalifa Muqairsho Dilovarshoev. The text was presented in Arabic, Persian Tajik in Cyrillic to the readers. It contains the recites, prayers, ayats of Quran, vocabulary, commentary and transcription of ayats.

-**Umed Mamadsherzodshoev**, The director of the Khorog ASPS of Tajikistan, the scientific worker of Humanitarian Institute of the Academy of sciences of Tajikistan.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

#### MESA

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Denver, CO

ASPS **Board** Meeting, Saturday, 11/21, 12-2pm,  
Director's Row E

ASPS **Business** Meeting, Saturday, 11/21, 2-3pm,  
Director's Row J

### CONFERENCES:

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Persianate Cultures of Documentation (15th – 20th Centuries): An International Conference**  
Conveners: Paolo Sartori and James Pickett

**June 23-24, 2016**, Institute of Iranian Studies,  
Apostelgasse 23, 1030 Wien

[http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/german/konferenz\\_documentation.html](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/german/konferenz_documentation.html)

By addressing the following questions, the symposium sets for itself the task of outlining a comparative history of documentation early modern and colonial periods across the Middle East, Central and South Asia:

- What makes an archive in the Persianate world, and what are the practices of documentation therein?
- Should we distinguish between archives and private collections?
- Why did dynasts preserve certain texts and how did they use them?

-Was the creation and the preservation of archives reflective of a certain historical consciousness  
-Did the preservation of texts alter their original meaning? How do we take stock of the aspirational aspect of record keeping?

-What was the relationship between archival practices and public knowledge?

-How did the culture of the spoken affect archival practices?

-What was the nature of interaction between manuscripts and practical documents – in terms of authorship, worldview, functionality and genre conventions?

Proposals should include paper abstracts of up to 500 words and a short CV (no more than 2 pages) of each speaker. Please send your proposal to [paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at) by **15 December 2015** at the latest. Travel and accommodation costs for invited speakers will be covered by the Institute of Iranian Studies. This is an initiative of the START Project “Seeing like an Archive”: <http://seeinglikeanarchive.wordpress.com>

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS:

**The International Conference on The Heritage of Al-Andalus, Persia-Iberia, November 17 -18, 2015**, by the Department of Spanish Language, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran, Iran.

The conference addresses the issue of mutual Iranian-Iberian influences during the centuries. Relying on a rich heritage, both cultures are inheritors of two of the oldest legacies of humankind.

The international conference on The Heritage of Al-Andalus, Persia-Iberia encourages interdisciplinary intercultural research approaches aimed at finding out how, when and where the encounter between these two cultures has provided more fertile ground.

**Parisis in New Delhi**  
**March 19-29th, 2016**

The event covers more than three exhibitions, film festival, music, Nowruz festival, and an international conference. Supported by UNESCO (under www.parzor project), Ministry of Culture (Government of India), IIC, ICHR, ICCR, SOAS (London University), and Zoroastrian Communities

## PUBLICATIONS

**Behrooz Chaman Ara**, *The Kurdish Shabnama and its Literary and Religious Implications*, 2015.

**Peter Golden**, “The Turkic World in Maḥmūd al-Kāshgharī” in J. Bemann and M. Schmauder (eds.), *The Complexity of Interaction along the Eurasian Steppe Zone in the first Millennium CE. Empires, Cities, Nomads and Farmers in Bonn Contributions to Asian Archaeology 7* (Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 2015), pp.503-555.

**Rudi Matthee**, Relations between the Center and the Periphery in Safavid Iran: The Western Borderlands v. the Eastern Frontier Zone,” *The Historian* 77 (2015), pp. 431-463.

**Bahman Solati**, *Persian Words of Wisdom by Masters of Persian Poetry*, 2012.

ناپير مالکوم، سفرنامه يزد (پنج سال در يك شهر ايراني)،  
 ترجمه دکتر **علی محمد طرفداري**، يزد، انتشارات  
 مهرپادين، بهار 1394

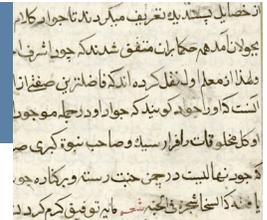
موزه بين المللي بدون مرز، ظهور هنر اسلامي در منطقه  
 شامات، ترجمه دکتر **علی محمد طرفداري** و دکتر مهرشاد  
 عباسي، تهران، انتشارات سروش، تابستان 1394

**Amina Tawasil**, “Towards the Ideal Revolutionary Shi'i Woman: The Howzevi (Seminarian), the Requisites of Marriage and Islamic Education in

Iran,” *Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World* 13 (2015).

———, “The Howzevi (Seminarian) Women in Iran: Constituting and Reconstituting Paths,” Dissertation Abstract, *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* 11 (2), July 2015.

## EDITORIAL NOTES



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As my term as Newsletter Editor comes to an end at the end of this year, I would like to take the time to say that it has been wonderful to meet all of you (even if virtually). I would like to thank **Pooriya Alimoradi, Saïd Amir Arjomand, Jo-Ann Gross, Rudi Matthee, Parvaneh Pourshariati**, our **Regional Directors**, and our members for all their

assistance and support.

I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming **Mehdi Faraji** to the ASPS team and to the role of Newsletter Editor.

Sincerely,

Ghazzal Dabiri

The **deadline** for the the **next Newsletter** will be **March 1, 2016**.

**If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible.** Your continued support is now made easier with online membership renewal. Please visit:

<http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/membership> to access the online form and link to PayPal (which accepts multiple currencies). The ASPS online form should reflect the address where you would like your issues of *JPS* to be sent and your preferred e-mail address for ASPS communication. The PayPal site requires your billing address. If you paid but have not received the latest volume of the *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.

Please send your news and all items of professional interest to **Mehdi Faraji** at:  
[mehdi.faraji@stonybrook.edu](mailto:mehdi.faraji@stonybrook.edu)